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U.S. Census Bureau

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Preliminary: U.S. Imports for Consumption of Steel Products

November 2002

The U.S. Census Bureau, through the Department of Commerce, announced today that preliminary November steel imports were **\$1.0 billion (2.4 million metric tons)**. This was a decrease of \$0.1 billion (0.3 million metric tons) from the preliminary October totals of \$1.1 billion (2.7 million metric tons).

The October to November change in steel imports, based on metric tonnage, reflected a decrease primarily in blooms, billets, and slabs and wire rods. Monthly changes in steel imports reflected decreases primarily with Mexico, Brazil, and Russia.

The year to date final statistics through October of 2002 showed steel imports of 24.5 million metric tons, an increase of 1.8 million metric tons from the 22.8 million metric tons through October of 2001. The largest commodity increases were in blooms, billets, and slabs and hot rolled sheets. The largest decreases occurred in cold rolled sheets, and oil country goods. The largest country increases were with Canada and Brazil. The largest decreases occurred with Korea and Japan.

Notes:

The data in this report are preliminary and subject to revisions.

Analysis of recent months for steel product imports indicates the value of preliminary data should equal about 96 percent of the final value reported in the regular monthly trade statistics report. Preliminary data reported for individual steel categories and at the individual country of origin level have been less consistently predictive of the final data reported in the regular monthly trade statistics. For further details visit the Foreign Trade Division web site at: www.census.gov/foreign-trade/www/. On the web site you can access product by country and country by product tables.

The next release is January 28, 2003